

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I answer the distinguished assistant Democratic leader by saying that is exactly the case. We had an extraordinarily effective demonstration of bipartisanship in taking up the highway bill. I worked closely with Senator FRIST. I say to the Senator, you worked closely with Senator INHOFE. We got the job done on time and, as you say, on budget.

This does not represent 1 dollar of additional deficit spending. It is a commitment to jobs. It is a commitment to infrastructure. It is a commitment to our fiscal soundness that I think is one of the best moments we have experienced in this Congress to date. It demonstrated again Democrats and Republicans can truly work together.

I only hope we could do the same in the House, and we will certainly do the same as we try to resolve whatever differences there will be with the House, including the amount committed to infrastructure in the coming days.

I thank the Senator for his excellent question.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leader time is served.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with the first 30 minutes under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee, and the final 30 minutes under the control of the majority leader or his designee.

The Senator from Nevada.

DEBATE IN THE SENATE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I will yield very quickly. I want to say this. I understand the procedures here in the Senate. I certainly understand the majority has the right of first recognition. If the majority decides they do not want us to participate in debate, it is difficult for us to be part of the debate.

But I want the RECORD to be spread with the fact today we have heard—and I hope it is wrong—when we complete action today on the underlying bill, that is, the welfare bill, the majority is going to go to the floor and prevent us from being part of the debate; they are going to talk about what Democrats are doing is wrong and what they are doing is right, and not allow us to have recognition. Now I say, as the Chair is aware, that we heard once before, not long ago, the majority was going to do this, and you will recall at that time I got the floor and kept the floor for a long time. That did not set a good tone, that the majority was, in effect, trying to force us out of the debate. The Senate is a debating body, and we should be part of that.

I say for the second time this morning, we know the majority can keep us from being recognized. It would set a very bad tone. I do not think it would be appropriate or fair, and we would do whatever we could to protect our right, and everyone should understand that.

Mr. President, I yield, on the time we have remaining, 20 minutes to the Senator from New York.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TALENT). The Senator from New York is recognized for 20 minutes.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I thank my leader from Nevada.

APRIL FOOLS' ON US

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, many years ago when I was a schoolgirl, on this day someone might come up to me in the hallway and say: Hillary, your skirt is ripped. I would turn around in panic, and they would say: April Fools'. Or maybe somebody would stop me after class and say: Hillary, I heard Janie is really mad at you, and I don't know what you did to her, but you'd better talk to her. I would feel terrible. Before I could do anything about it, someone would say: April Fools'.

Well, today is April 1, and there is a long tradition of people playing jokes on each other, pulling stunts, and then causing someone to be upset or worried or anxious or maybe even happy that they have been told something is going to happen, only to have the rug pulled out from under them when someone says, either jokingly or sometimes a little cruelly: April Fools'.

Thankfully, that day only came once a year, so you only had to endure your friends or maybe your not-so-friendly classmates' jokes and stunts for 24 hours. But I sometimes feel that it is April Fools' Day every single day here on Capitol Hill, on the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue in the White House, because on issue after issue of profound importance to the American people, our Government is basically saying: April Fools'.

Do you remember when they introduced their budget in 2001 and said: "If you drastically cut taxes on the wealthiest of Americans, why, my goodness, revenues will increase in the budget. You don't have to worry about all the expenses that we have keeping this great country going because this will work"? Well, 3 years later, we are facing a \$500 billion deficit. Guess what. April Fools' on us.

Do you remember when they said: "Our policies are going to generate jobs"? Well, we saw during the 1990s 22 million new jobs created in America. What a difference that made in so many people's lives. What have been the results of this administration's economic policies? The loss of nearly 3 million jobs.

So for all those Americans who believed this administration's policies would work to create jobs and economic opportunity, guess what. April Fools' on you.

When it comes to the Medicare prescription drug benefit, the administration knew there was an estimate by the man responsible for calculating how much Medicare will cost that was much higher than what had been discussed in the debate over the bill. Here in this Chamber we were told the bill would cost \$400 billion. That is a lot of money. It was a lot of money for what, frankly, our seniors are going to get, which is going to be a lot of confusion because so much of the money is going to drug companies and insurance companies. But, lo and behold, we wake up and find out that it was not a \$400 billion bill; it was a \$534 billion bill. And the actuary, the civil servant at Medicare—he is not political; he works year in and year out for whoever is in office—was ordered not to tell the truth to the American Congress or the people about the cost of the Medicare prescription drug benefit or he would be fired.

So we passed the bill. I didn't vote for it but a majority did. We passed it. The President signed it. Guess what. April Fools': It is not going to cost \$400 billion, it is going to cost \$534 billion.

Then, of course, we have No Child Left Behind, which many of us so hoped would make a difference in the education of our children. But we conditioned our support for this education reform on the promise by the President that it would be fully funded, that the money our teachers and principals and superintendents and school boards, but particularly our children, would need would be there.

Well, no longer is that promise even credible. The President signed the bill and then presented a budget which didn't provide the money required to fully implement No Child Left Behind. Once again, April Fools' on us.

Americans have been fooled time and time again by this administration, fooled by promises and fooled by predictions. Indeed, for 3½ years, this administration has said one thing and done something else. The list is far longer than what I have even mentioned. This was an administration that said: We are going to do something about global climate change and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere that is warming our climate. We just received a report from the Pentagon talking about what that means to our national security. So the President gave speeches when he was running for office saying we are going to deal with that. Lo and behold, he gets into office, and forget it. April Fools': climate change, no such thing is going forward under this President.

We have just seen some recent examples with respect to rising gas prices. That is a big concern. It is a concern in my State and around the country. We are seeing OPEC cutting production which will cause even higher prices for gasoline. When the President was running for office, he said: Why doesn't anyone do anything to get these gas prices down? When I am elected, I will